

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary,

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My testimony will be straight to the point.

Circumstances demand that we ask ourselves at least these two questions. Have we lost our compass setting? Have we not been victimized enough by de-regulation in the financial world?

In the many hats I wear as an Addiction Medicine specialist -- teacher, clinical researcher, public policy advisor, medical administrator - it's my opinion, which opinion is supported by evidence, that Marijuana is a gateway drug into the hell of chemical dependency. Addiction Medicine specialists have worked tirelessly for years to promote abstinence as a policy to achieve healthy lives. What message would passing this Bill give to our youth?

SB 349 would have the untoward effect of jeopardizing health and community safety. We all know the perils of "drunk driving" and it is uncontroverted that "drugged driving" is as harmful and destructive. The argued reason for passing the bill to reduce the amount of people in our jails is illusory. The submitted testimony of my colleague, Dave Evans, explains and demonstrates the reasons why that is so and I will therefore not repeat them here. There are no positives for passing this bill!

I implore you to consider the unintended consequences of passing SB 349.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark L. Kraus, M.D.,  
Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, Yale University School of Medicine  
Chief Medical Officer of Connecticut Counseling Centers  
Board Member, American Society of Addicton Medicine  
Non-Legislative Member of the State of Connecticut Alcohol and Drug Policy Counsel  
Public Policy Chair, American Society of Addicton Medicine  
Policy Public and Legislative Chair, Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of  
Addiction Medicine  
Past President, Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine  
Chair, Connecticut State Medical Society, Committee on Alcohol and Other Drug Education